

FEMININE AND FANCIES.



HANDSOME OPERA CLOAK.

"WE LIVE TO EAT." SAYS DAISY MAY.

Are Society People Becoming Gormands?
Mrs. Carter and Sibyl Sanderson.
Fashion Chitchat.

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Reflectively speaking, I should say so. I live to eat. To refuse this statement seems fashionable customs must come. No doubt this sentiment uttered should offend the aesthetic members of our colony. I, as the author of it, would be fittingly rebuked, incontinent snubbed. That we are becoming gormands is the gross truth, however unpleasant it may be to repeat.
For instance, there's the "small dance," apparently quite inoffensive in its way. Mrs. A. is giving it. Half a dozen women friends, to lend color, issue dinner invitations for the same evening. An understanding exists that guests go from dinner party to dance. The temptations are all there. You dine sumptuously. You join the dancers about 9 o'clock. At 11 supper is announced. You follow the crowd. You gorge. They do. It is an expected tribute of appreciation you owe the establishment's cuisine. Otherwise you'd be considered impolite.
The collation begins half an hour after midnight. Cathedral chimes ring out two chimes, telling strokes as the last supper (frankly is heartwarming). As if by magic, James and a corps of helpers appear upon the scene, placing small tables at the convenience of tired dancers and the talkative other folk. Again it is to eat. There is no escape. The "petit supper" is served. Malham the hostess disappears for the moment. Until after you've toyed with the viands it is useless to attempt sleep.
A daily repetition of the programme described demonstrates pretty clearly what I have asserted—that nowadays we live to eat. Observe, curiously, in still greater demand if society does not mend its ways. I modestly suggest a crusade against the feeding habit.

wife and married the prima donna 12 months ago. For five years Terry paid constant court and was always to be found in the same city, at the same hotel, as the lovely Sanderson. Now, he is dead, his wealth reverts to his mother, and Sibyl Sanderson once more must earn her living.

Scandal upon scandal followed the actions of this duo from beginning to finish. Carping critics today are saying, "Retribution!"
Whether by dint of Belasco perseverance or by reason of her lone genius Mrs. Leslie Carter is recognized as a great American actress. As to her personality men generally agree in calling her a handsome woman in figure and feature. Women are apt to be more critical. Some consider her too tall and insist that her mouth is too large to lay any claim to beauty. She certainly has a large mouth, but also has a beautiful set of teeth, and her hair is a red gold shade which is the delight and despair of artists. She has a charm of manner peculiarly fascinating, and, being possessed of that rarest of gifts, tact, is pretty well equipped despite criticism.

As the heroine in "Zaza" she has taken Manhattan by storm. While opinions differ concerning the vehicle she chose no dissenters are heard as to her ability.
"Zaza" is a curious combination of the good and the bad. It is both immoral and praiseworthy. Mrs. Carter plays Zaza only a woman with a woman's instincts, and she but acts the part. Zaza, as the dominating, wise, sympathetic, throughout her evolution. Unlike Camille, she does not depend upon illness to secure it.
Zaza's life as portrayed might be called a sermon upon the footlights to impulsive woman. In fact, there are two points of saving grace. One is that no matter what the condition in life or the surroundings man always turns from the mistress to the wife. The other reveals the possibilities of a bad woman. In the play she reforms, becomes good through the love she bore him who so cruelly deceived her. When the inconstant man returns, she firmly repulses his advances. She sends him back to his child and wife with the knowledge that the stain of his last kiss has purified her being. The temptress Zaza disappears having scored a victory of indecision. Is she saint or sinner?

My modiste is industriously circulating a petition (metaphorically) for the reinstatement of velvet gowns. It is a paper between season fabric and has its advantages. A velvet frock, with a boa, is warm enough for the transition period prior to spring's debut. Some sartorial achievements in velvet are most befitting. Judging from the array of velveteens encountered, my modiste has collected enough signatures to pass the bill.

A gray velvet with a dash of scarlet caught my fancy at the swiftest shop in New York. The upper skirt portion was formed by a divided yoke, the lower by a sweeping circular flounce. Round the waist a complete success. A waist line at front and back of the bodice were effective. A scarlet velvet kerchief extended across the back and held in place a series of eury chiffon ruffles. Jetted buttons supplied the needed touch of black without which a gown is a complete success. A peculiarity of the dress just described is the seamless back bodice. Most of the recent importations exploit this new mode.

Embroidery and lace contrive to win unadmitted praise when seen on gorgeous satin evening wrap. The wrap in question outlines a deep pointed collar. It is made of pale blue satin heavily embroidered in silver thread and chenille. A meagerly full lace flounce draped over a wider one of satin borders the edge. Two narrower frills suggest a double hood about the shoulders. The same floral treatment is observed throughout. A sable collar with pipings of fur brings the price of this exquisite outer garment up to the \$1,000 mark.

The merits of lace impress me most favorably, particularly in the form of a directorate coat, and this seems to me the ideal model to which a genuinely middle aged woman should pin her faith for evening dresses. The sweeping coat curves and open shaped basques are infinitely more beautiful than the pointed bodice which usually fails to the lot of the matronly. The indefinable mystery of filmy meshwork in gipsies is more to be desired than the shiny surface.

Princess is the color robust proportions should avoid, gray the one to carefully avoid. Fringe in variety clamors for attention. Most of the new tunics sport a few yards of it. Three tones of one color may blend attractively when handled by an expert, but to most of us this fashion hint is unwelcome.

Daisy May
New York.

THE CONGRESS OF MOTHERS.

The National Body to Meet in Washington Shortly.

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Amid all the fads and fancies taken up by the modern women of leisure the idea represented by the National Congress of Mothers, which meets in executive session in Washington Feb. 14 to 17, is the proper study of mankind if man, they think it is well worth while investigating the possibilities of man in miniature—the healthy young human creature whose sensitive mind and soul have not been seared and burned and hacked into conventional mold.
It is the conviction of those interested in the movement that had Absalom's mother known a little about psychology or Messalina's maternal relative made an exhaustive study of the ethics of spanking the receding angel would have been enabled to put them down in a more respectable portion of the book. Indifferent, ignorant or wicked mothers the congress believes we to be responsible for much of the sorrow and suffering and sin that are in the world. It is to compare theories and practice in the art of making children good and happy men and women that these women, representing socially, intellectually and morally what is best in the country, yearly gather in the Capital City.

The founder of this society is Mrs. Theodore W. Birney, a woman of wealth, education and social position. Her interest in the matter was partially aroused by attendance at the mothers' meeting of Chautauque. Many noble women were associated with Mrs. Birney in the preliminary work of organization. Among these Mrs. Phoebe Hearst and Miss Emma Morton of Washington were influential in making the work of the society a success. Mrs. Hearst volunteered to bear the expense of its establishment. Mrs. Adlai Stevenson, wife of ex-Vice President Stevenson; Mrs. Margaret E. Sangster, editor and poet; Mrs. Ellen Richardson of Boston, president of the Washington Memorial University association; Mrs. Mary E. Mumford of Philadelphia, founder of the famous New Century club; Mrs. Mary Lowe Dickinson of the King's Daughters; Mrs. Ellen Hendon of Chicago; Mrs. Helen M. Gardiner of Boston; Mrs. Maud Ballington Booth of the Volunteers of America; and Mrs. Jennie Miller, Mrs. Garrett A. Hobart and Mrs. Harriet Prescott Spofford of Washington are a few of the brilliant women interested in the congress.

The congress this year promises to afford a specially fine intellectual feast. It will assemble in the First Baptist church of Washington. The official headquarters of delegates will be the Cairo, a hotel a couple of blocks from the church. The congress will be held in the same line of study as the National Mothers' Congress and approved by the executive committee of the congress is entitled to one delegate to the convention upon payment of \$5.
Subjects which will be discussed are: Duty of the Mother in Training Children for Citizenship; let by Mr. Lawrence Hunt, former president of the George Junior Republic; "Parental Duty in Education," opened by Mrs. Mary E. Mumford, honorary vice president of the congress and a member of the Philadelphia New Century club; Professor William B. Powell, superintendent of schools, and Miss Edith Westcott, principal of the Western High school of Washington, will also take leading parts in the discussion. "Adolescence" will be the subject of a lecture by Dr. G. Stanley Hall of Worcester, Mass.

"The Physical Care of Children" will be the topic discussed by Dr. L. Emmett Holt of New York. Rev. Hastings H. Hart, president of the Illinois Children's Home and Aid society, will present his views on "Environment and Heredity." "The Supreme Peril of Modern Civilization" will be pointed out by the Rev. Josiah Strong of New York, president of the League for Social Service. Dr. William H. Hoeman, secretary of the same organization, will give an illustrated lecture on "Industry Idealized," Miss



NEAT WALKING GOWN.

Wheelock of the Boston kindergarten is scheduled for a talk on her specialty. Other addresses will be on "Civics in Education" by Mrs. Thomas Kirkbridge, president of the Civic club of Philadelphia; and another "Literature for Children" by Mrs. Herman H. Birney, a leader in university extension work. "Does the Curriculum of Schools and Colleges Fit Young Men and Women for the Duties of Life?" will be the last speech and will close the congress Friday evening, Feb. 17. The speaker will be Professor Mary Roberts Smith of Leland Stanford university.
Thursday morning, Feb. 15, will be devoted to business and the annual election of officers. The probabilities are that those now in office will be re-elected. They are Mrs. Theodore W. Birney, president; vice presidents, Mrs. Adlai Stevenson, Mrs. John R. Lewis, Mrs. A. A. Birney and Mrs. Mary E. Mumford; secretary, Mrs. Vesta H. Cassidy; treasurer, Mrs. James H. McGill.
There is an honorary reception committee composed of Mrs. Garrett A. Hobart, wife of the vice president of the United States, and Mrs. Harriet Prescott Spofford, the famous poetess.
The chairman of standing committees are: Mrs. Theodore W. Birney of finance, Mrs. William N. Holtzman of transportation and Mrs. Harriet W. Coolidge of literature. The executive committee may be distinguished by visitors by means of the white and gold badges which they will wear. Ushers will be designated by white badges with scarlet lettering. The arrangement committee will wear scarlet, and the press committee, of which Mrs. E. Bowman Matthews is chairman, will be recognized by their blue badges. The ladies of the reception committee are to have purple, delegates will be given badges of medium blue, while visitors are expected to pin to their coats light pink badges. Indeed the congress of mothers has reduced the badge system to such a science that any one may know by a glance the exact place of every one else in the official business of the convention.

One thing which may be especially said in praise of the congress is that it is the best planned convention of women that meets in the country. Mrs. Birney, the head of the organization, is an indefatigable worker and personally sees that every detail of the arrangements has been looked after by her associates. She has planned many of the convenient and interesting features of the meeting.
Enough to be practiced by any one. It is said that every morning she takes a brisk walk in the grounds of her palace with a heavy pointer on her head. This not only improves the neck, but it gives one an erect and graceful carriage. It is not original with the queen, for it has been a common practice among the women of the poorer classes in her country from the earliest ages.
It is probably not generally known that the Prince of Wales wears a bracelet on his left wrist. The wearing of the bracelet is not, however, fashionable on the part of his royal highness, for the hangle has a history. It belonged originally to Maximilian, the ill-fated emperor of Mexico.
Sir Edwin Arnold, the author of "The Light of Asia," is said to have adopted the Hindu religion, which is that of his wife, a charming young Japanese lady. The present British minister in Japan, Sir Ernest Satow, has gone over to Shintoism also.
Here is a merry story: A certain lady of wide world celebrity is in the habit of having bacchanal parties at her house

A REAL AMERICAN QUEEN.

When Americans boast of the brilliant matches made by young women of their nationality with noblemen of foreign courts, not one out of a thousand is aware of the most brilliant alliance ever contracted by an American woman. Beside it the glories of the dukedom of Marlborough or of Manchester pale into insignificance. For is not an American woman a queen dowager of Portugal?

The story of a poor Boston girl's rise from obscurity to a throne reads like a romance. She was a singer, Elise Henlar by name, and was born in a little house in Pleasant street, Boston, in 1838. She was pretty and gentle and endowed with a voice so lovely that when quite a young girl she was engaged to sing at the historic Park street church, which had a wealthy and aristocratic congregation.

The remarkable quality of her voice attracted the attention of some wealthy musical dilettanti in the congregation, and they united in a subscription to send her abroad, where she could enjoy the advantage of the training of the best musical masters.
Her debut was made in New York and was a brilliant one. So splendid a success did she score that she at once received advantageous offers to sing in the capitals of Europe, and she sailed away from her native land, never to come back again.

Her first appearance abroad was in the Opera House, Lisbon. In the royal box on the first night of her appearance sat King Ferdinand of Portugal. He was a widower, his wife, Queen Maria da Gloria II, having died in 1853. The young and beautiful prima donna sang the role of Amina in Bellini's "La Sonnambula." Bellini was then in the height of his popularity, and the exquisite voice and the loveliness of face and figure of the prima donna, together with the music and the poetry of the role, combined to captivate his majesty's fancy. King Ferdinand was old enough and experienced enough to know he was in love, and he lost no time in making the acquaintance of the singer.

Now, King Ferdinand was a man of leisure and had plenty of time to devote to love-making. His wife, Maria da Gloria II, the hereditary ruler of Portugal, had on her death left to him the government of the country until the majority of Dom Pedro V, the heir to the throne. Dom Pedro at this time had come into his inheritance, and his father, King Ferdinand, at his own request, had retired from public life.

Therefore there were no reasons of state to interfere with his romance. Elise Henlar, however, received his attentions very discreetly. She was impressed by his devotion, and when he asked her to be his wife she was prepared to accept him. King Ferdinand was ready to marry her in the face of any protests which his family might have to make, but they had none. His marriage with an opera singer would remove him more than ever out of political life and was accordingly smiled upon by the royal family of Portugal. During his years of regency King Ferdinand had ruled wisely and well, though in the troubled state in which Portugal then existed there was always danger of revolution.

June 10, 1862, Elise Henlar became the wife of King Ferdinand. His daughter-in-law, Queen Maria da Gloria, was present at the wedding and after the ceremony kissed the bride. The latter had previously been created Countess of Edia by King Ferdinand's brother, the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, in order that her rank might be more in accordance with his. Gifts were received from royalty all over the world, and so the Cinderella story seemed complete.

The king and his wife spent nearly all their time at the chateau of Cintra, one of the beautiful royal residences. There they led an ideal existence, surrounded by all that wealth, luxury and royal honors could give. The palace is encircled by magnificent gardens, and these were a special care of the king, for he was a great botanist and a lover of rare plants. The queen and the royal family of Portugal became greatly attached to Ferdinand's wife, who she carried herself with a modest dignity which many a princess might have imitated with profit.

Thirteen years ago King Ferdinand died, and ever since his widow has lived in retirement in her palace.



MRS. THEODORE W. BIRNEY.

WOMEN OF THE WORLD.

Mrs. Sarah Bernhardt thinks of visiting India next year. For this purpose a yacht is being fitted up for her, which promises to be an artistic triumph. It is said that M. Pierre Loti is to be its captain.
Lady Curzon of Kedleston, formerly Miss Lettice of Chicago, has taken four English nurses to India.
The following three queens possess the distinction of the grand cordon of

the Legion of Honor: Emma, queen mother of Holland; the ex-queen of Madagascar and the queen regent of Spain.
Rosa Bonheur, the famous artist, leads the life of a peasant, rising early and going to bed late. Every morning on getting up she takes a walk in her garden, invariably accompanied by her dog. From 3 o'clock until 11:30 she works in her studio, and at 1 o'clock

work is resumed until 5 o'clock. The great artist then goes for an excursion in the forest near her home. She finishes her day by reading.
Entertainment managers are unanimous in declaring that sooner does a man perform a new and daring trick of any kind than they immediately receive offers from women to give the same exhibition or outdo it. Nowadays this is the invariable rule. Strong women, female parachutists, high divers, lion tamers and quick change artists have sprung up in the immediate track

of male exponents of these various forms of variety stage talent. In many cases the woman has equaled the man, and where skill, neatness and finish are the chief characteristics of perfect rendering the fair imitator usually outvalues the original performer.
Queen Natalie is generally singled out as being the most beautiful queen in Europe. Her greatest charm is her exquisitely shaped neck, which is said to resemble that of the Venus of Milo. The art she employs to protect it against the ravages of time is simple